

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. (currently amended) A method of treating an individual afflicted with an inflammatory or autoimmune disease comprising administering to the individual an IL-1
5 delta polypeptide selected from the group consisting of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:4, and polypeptides encoded by DNAs that hybridize under moderately stringent conditions (use of a prewashing solution for the nitrocellulose filters 5X SSC, 0.5% SDS, 1.0 mM EDTA (pH 8.0), hybridization conditions of about 50% formamide, 6X SSC at about 42°C and washing conditions of about 60°C, 0.5X SSC, 0.1% SDS) to the DNA of SEQ
10 ID NO:3 and further wherein the polypeptide blocks an inflammatory response selected from the group consisting of rheumatoid arthritis and inflammatory bowel disease
2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein inflammatory or autoimmune disease is selected from the group consisting of rheumatoid arthritis,
15 inflammatory bowel disease, psoriasis, and combinations thereof.
3. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein inflammatory or autoimmune disease is selected from the group consisting of: ankylosing spondylitis, Crohn's Disease, ulcerative colitis, psoriatic arthritis, asthma, infection-associated airway
20 hyperactivity, granulomatous lung disease, emphysema, chronic fibrosing alveolitis, acute hyperoxic lung damage, multiple sclerosis, chronic inflammatory demyelinating polyneuropathy, stroke, acute myocardial infarction, unstable angina, arterial restenosis, congestive heart failure, osteoporosis, osteoarthritis, glomerulonephritis, uveitis, Behçet's syndrome, sepsis, acute pancreatitis, diabetes, endometriosis, periodontal disease, heat
25 stroke, glaucoma, multiple myeloma, myeloid leukemia, and combinations thereof.
4. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the IL-1 delta polypeptides are selected from the group consisting of polypeptides that are at least 80% identical to the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:4.
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5. (currently amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the IL-1 delta polypeptides are selected from the group consisting of polypeptides that are at least 80% identical to the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:4.

6. (currently amended) The method of claim 3, wherein the IL-1 delta polypeptides are selected from the group consisting of polypeptides that are at least 80% identical to the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:4.

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10. (currently amended) A method of treating an individual afflicted with an inflammatory or autoimmune disease comprising administering to the individual an IL-1 delta polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4.

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11. (currently amended) The method of claim 10, wherein inflammatory or autoimmune disease is selected from the group consisting of rheumatoid arthritis, inflammatory bowel disease, psoriasis, and combinations thereof.

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12. (currently amended) The method of claim 10, wherein inflammatory or autoimmune disease is selected from the group consisting of: ankylosing spondylitis, Crohn's Disease, ulcerative colitis, psoriatic arthritis, asthma, infection-associated airway hyperactivity, granulomatous lung disease, emphysema, chronic fibrosing alveolitis, acute hyperoxic lung damage, multiple sclerosis, chronic inflammatory demyelinating polyneuropathy, stroke, acute myocardial infarction, unstable angina, arterial restenosis, congestive heart failure, osteoporosis, osteoarthritis, glomerulonephritis, uveitis, Behçet's syndrome, sepsis, acute pancreatitis, diabetes, endometriosis, periodontal disease, heat stroke, glaucoma, multiple myeloma, myeloid leukemia, and combinations thereof.

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13. (newly added) The method of claim 1, wherein the IL-1 delta polypeptide comprises alterations to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4 selected from the group consisting of inactivated N-glycosylation site(s), inactivated protease processing site(s), conservative amino acid substitution(s), and combinations thereof.

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14. (newly added) The method of claim 2, wherein the IL-1 delta polypeptide comprises alterations to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4 selected from the

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group consisting of inactivated N-glycosylation site(s), inactivated protease processing site(s), conservative amino acid substitution(s), and combinations thereof.

15. (newly added) The method of claim 3, wherein the IL-1 delta polypeptide
5 comprises- alterations to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4 selected from the group consisting of inactivated N-glycosylation site(s), inactivated protease processing site(s), conservative amino acid substitution(s), and combinations thereof.